Declining employment avenues in SSI

170. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend of declining employment avenues is continuing in the Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the employment opportunities in Small Scale Industries sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government/Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of Small Scale Industries (SSI). The Central Government, however, implements a number of supplementary schemes/programmes for providing support to the SSI in the area of infrastructure, credit, marketing, technology, etc. Besides, it implements the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programmes (REGP) specifically designed for creating self-employment opportunities.

During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007), an additional employment target of 4.4 million persons has been fixed for SSI sector, 2.5 million under the REGP, and 1.65 million under the PMRY. It is estimated that the achievements during the first three years of the 10th Five Year Plan under the SSI sector, REGP and PMRY have been 3.4 million, 1.36 million and 1 million respectively.

Small Industry cluster development programme

171. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact taht Government have launched a scheme called "Small Industry Cluster Development Programme" since 2003;